Nadu are available in the basis of a national sample survey conducted during 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Deterioration in teaching standards of Government and Government aided schools in Delhi

3215. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the *Statesman* dated the 5th October, 1988 regarding deterioration in the teaching performance of Government and Government aided schools in Delhi: and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to examine the causes for deterioration in the teaching standards in the schools and the manner in which Government propose to bring about an overall improvement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, as per Delhi Administration the pass percentage of Xth standard in annual examination results was 54.7 during 1986-87 and 80.1 during 1987-88 and that of XIIth standard was 75.6 during 1986-87 and 86.1 during 1987-88 and, thus, the performance of Government and Government Aided Schools is satisfactory. In order to further improve the quality of education in schools in Delhi, programmes like mass orientation programme for school teachers, Operation Blackboard, Vocational Education and Science Education schemes started by the Ministry are being implemented by Delhi Administration.

Sarda Ukil School of Art, New Delhi

3216. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Art School of the denowned artist Sarda Ukil, whose birh centenary was celebrated recently, possesses only one painting of the artist and that the art school has been completely neglected;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any exercise to identify the causes for the school's deterioration; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the steps contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The Sarda Ukil School of Art, Delhi is a private institution receiving grant-in-aid from Delhi Administration. It has been ascertained that the school does not possess any panting of Sarda Ukil. An enquiry into the affairs of the School has shown that it is not functioning satisfactorily. The Delhi Administration is persuading the management of the School to make good the inadequacies.

Awarding of catering contract by Air India to a West German firm

3217. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a catering contract has been given by Air India to a West German firm;

(b) if so, what are the details of the contract;

(c) whether tenders were invited for this contract;

(d) if so, what is the number of tenders received and whether any Indian firm ha dalso participated in the tender; and

(e) what are the reasons for rejecting other tenders, including the Indian ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (e) As one of the measures of improvement of service, the management decided to enage consultants to advise on continental cuisine. For this purpose, proposals from Ecole Hoteliere Lausanne Institute for Tourism and Hotel Management, Salzburg and also M/s. Steigenberger were considered. On the basis of their long experience in airline catering, M/s. Steigenberger were given the contract as consultants. Engaging Indian consultancy services on continental cuisine was not considered appropriate.

Casual labourers in the Railways

3218. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of casual labourers working at present in all the Railway Departments;

(b) what is the number of those casual labourers who have been working for the last five years;

(c) what is the number of those casual labourers who have put in a service of five years and have been made regular; and

(d) what is the number of posts category-wise which are lying vacant in all the Railway Departments, as on Ist September, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Infodmation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

New Developments in South Africa

3219. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of new disturbing developments in South Africa; and

(b) what is Government's reaction to the new restrictions on political opposition announced by the South African Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The South African Government has banned the activities of 17 opposition groups. Strict press censorship remains in force. Under the continuing emergency the authorities have intensified their repression of the non-white majority. Government have consistently condemned these actions by the racist regime and have actively sought to mobilise world public opinion to bring pressure to bear on the regime with a view to dismantling apartheid and estabilishing a democratic polity based on majority rule.

Allotment of Book Counter Partnership contract of unemployed Graduates at New Delhi Railway Station

3220. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of suggestion from some M.Ps that the Book Counter Tables & Trolleys of M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons, should be allotted as per policy to the Existing Contractor of unemployed Graduates Partnership firm at New Delhi Station; and